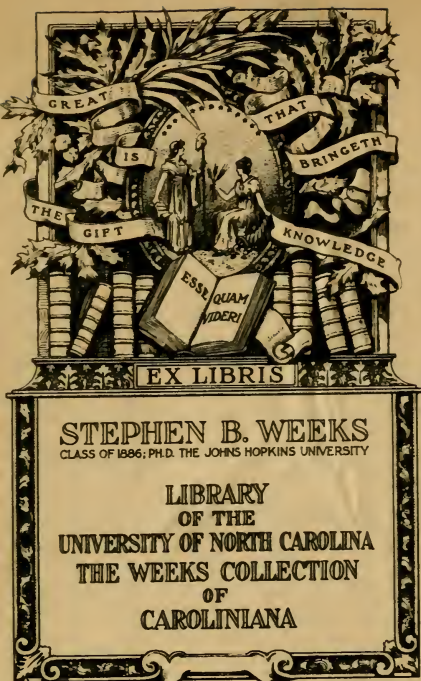


Reminiscences of Randolph  
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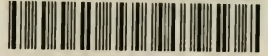
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REMINISCENCES

OF

RANDOLPH COUNTY.

*Stephen B. Weeks* 9 May 1890  
BY

J. A. BLAIR,

ASHEBORO, N. C.

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*"Via trita via tuta."*

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GREENSBORO:

Reece & Elam, Book and Job Printers.

1890.



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## PREFACE.

This little Scrap-book of memories is compiled from the records of our first courts, supplemented with facts culled from general history and the comments of the writer. It is designed to revive the memory of the past, and to preserve and perpetuate something, at least, of the early history and settlement of Randolph county.

The Indian is taught to love the hunting grounds of his fathers, and to hold in sacred veneration the traditions of his tribe.

Our traditionary history is largely lost amid the rubbish of buried centuries. The men who knew it are gone. The living know more about what is to be than what has been.

No county in the State has ever won a grander or a nobler fame, in the struggle for life and liberty, in the cause of peace and freedom than Randolph. No county in the State possesses to so great an extent the natural elements of wealth and prosperity as ours. Yet she is comparatively unknown. Her resources are undeveloped. Her history is unwritten. Her story is untold. Records are destroyed. Information is lost. Facts are forgotten. Old men pass away, even the prophets do not live forever, hence the necessity of duplicating history. Within the last twenty years, it is said that six per cent. of all the public records in the United States has been destroyed by fire. With the comforting thought that it possesses at least the merit of brevity, this little work is submitted to an intelligent public with the hope that it may furnish amusement or entertainment for a leisure hour, awaken a desire to learn more of our early history, to collect and preserve ancient relicts, stimulate a higher appreciation of our county and our people, and excite our gratitude to a merciful Providence for the blessings of civil and religious liberty and a home among the historic rocks and hills and heaths of Randolph county, where

The hand of beauty crowns the farmer's brow,  
And freemen rise in homage to the plow.

J. A. BLAIR.



## FORMATION OF RANDOLPH.

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The Legislature of 1779, then sitting at Halifax, passed an act providing for the formation of a new county out of Guilford and Rowan, to be called Randolph. Notice having been given, the citizens met accordingly on Monday, the 8th day of March, 1779, at the house of Abram Reece, who then lived on the place now owned by Elias Allred, about half way between Brown's Cross Roads and Randleman Factory. Proclamation being made, the act of Assembly was read, wherein, William Cole, John Collin, Joseph Hinds, George Cortner, John Arnold, William Millikan, John Hinds, Jacob Shepherd, Richardson Owen, Windsor Pearce, William Bell, William Merrill, John Lowe, Enoch Davis and James Hunter, were nominated Justices for holding the courts in said county.

The oath of allegiance and the oath of office was administered by William Cole, Esq., whereupon they took their seats and organized and held the first court in Randolph county by electing William Bell, Sheriff, William Millikan, Register of Deeds, and Absalom Tatum, Clerk.

### CROSS ROADS.

Three courts were held at Reece's house. In the meantime a small log house was built about four hundred yards east of the Cross Roads, on the lands of Stephen Rigdon, and the fourth court, held December the 13, 1779, was held here. This was denominated the Randolph Court House, and was in fact the first Court House in the county, though the title remained in Rigdon.

Stephen Rigdon owned a vast tract of land centering at the Cross Roads and extending from Back Creek almost to Deep River. In 1784 he conveyed to Zebidee Wood, Robert McLean and James Dougan, commissioners, to purchase a site for public buildings, five acres of land a little west of the Cross Roads, and in 1786 he conveyed to Thomas Dougan the entire remainder of his Cross Roads lands, comprising about six hundred acres.

On this five acre lot was erected the Court House and other public buildings. This Court House was a model of its day. It was a quaint two-story, hip-roof house, and was completed in two years from its incipiency. The nails used in its construction were made in a smith-shop near the place, and the plank were sawed by hand, and the first court held in this new forum was March court, 1786. This venerable building, now blotted out by the effacing hand of time, many yet living will remember to have seen.

In 1788 the Legislature, then sitting at Fayetteville, passed an act establishing a town on the lands of Thomas Dougan, embracing the new Court House, and appointing Jeduthan Harper, Jesse Henly, Samuel Millikan, William Bell and Zebidee Wood commissioners of the town, and they named it Johnsonville. Up to this time the town had assumed no definite shape. It had been floating about like Noah's Ark, and none could tell, with any degree of certainty, where it would finally rest. But now it is settled. The Court House is built. The town is established by law, and it has become inevitable that Johnsonville is to be the county site.

Here is the crossing of two public highways, the one

leading from Old Salem to Fayetteville, and the other from Salisbury to Hillsboro. Accessible from every quarter it attracted business, capital and speculation. Streets were opened, about seventy-five lots were purchased and improved, and besides the public buildings there were stores, hotels, bar rooms, smith shops, wood shops, shoe shops, hatter shops, and Johnsonville became the great centre of business and fashion.

A weekly stage line from Salisbury to Hillsboro passed through this place, and when the bugle notes rang out in wild echoes among the hills, announcing the approach of the mail, all Johnsonville was astir, there was a momentary lull in business, and somebody stood in every door, and gazed from every window, to see the passengers, hear the first break of news, and catch a glimpse of that marvelous vehicle of thought and civilization "that comes the herald of a noisy world, with news from all nations lumbering at his back," bringing one letter perhaps to Johnsonville, for which the favored recipient pays twenty-five cents postage, for at that time the postage was invariably paid by the receiver of the letter and not by the sender.

It was here at Johnsonville on Tuesday morning, December the 11th, 1787, a tall young man, about twenty years of age, entered the Court House and produced a license, from the Honorable the Judges of the Superior Court of Law and Equity, authorizing him to practice as an attorney in the several county courts, and taking the oath prescribed by law, proceeded to practice in said court.

## ANDREW JACKSON.

This man was Andrew Jackson, who afterward became the seventh President of the United States, defeating John Quincy Adams in 1828, and Henry Clay in 1832. Little is known of Jackson's birth and parentage. By industry, toil and study, he rose from poverty and obscurity to the summit of independence, distinction and fame.

How long Jackson remained in Randolph is not definitely known. The following entry made at March court, 1788, appears on the minute docket: "On motion of Andrew Jackson, Esq., Attorney for Absalom Tatum, it is ordered that Adam Tate, Esq., Coroner of Rockingham county, be fined fifty lbs. *Nisi*, for failing to return a writ of *Fiere Facias* against John May, Sheriff of said county, at the instance of Absalom Tatum, and that *Sciure Facias* issue accordingly."

Jackson left Randolph soon after this and tradition says he went to Martinsville, where his mother was living at that time. Here he remained a year perhaps and then went to Tennessee.

Leaving home is a trying ordeal for the boy, the bravest heart falters at the thought of quitting home never perhaps to return again. Things are seen differently now from what they have ever been seen before.

Every object becomes dearer and lovelier, memories become sweeter and companionships dearer and tenderer. It was autumn. The brown leaves were falling. The woods were tinged with crimson hue. The tremulous light, the cawing Crow and the noisy Jay, each note and voice was a sound of sorrow or a song of sadness. His

mother followed him to the fence, they had no gate, only a low rail fence around the house. There he mounted his horse and slowly rode away. His mother stood and watched him till he disappeared beyond the woody lane and never saw her boy again.

#### COUNTY COURTS.

The Justices before whom Andrew Jackson qualified were John Arnold, Zebidee Wood, John Lane and Aaron Hill.

These county courts were held four times a year, and had final jurisdiction to hear and determine all civil actions founded on contract, where the sum demanded did not exceed forty shillings, and of all petty larcenies, assaults and batteries, and all minor offences and misdemeanors. They appointed the overseers of roads, took the probate of deeds, granted letters of administration and letters testamentary, licensed tavern keepers and fixed the tavern rates. We append here a schedule of tavern rates, adopted at September court, 1783:

Good West India Rum .....	½ Pint.	1 shilling.	4 pence
Northward Rum.....	“ “	1 “	0 “
Good Peach Brandy.....	“ “	1 “	0 “
“ Apple “ .....	“ “	1 “	6 “
“ Whiskey .....	“ “	1 “	6 “
Wine .....	per quart	4 “	0 “
Strong Beer.....	“ “	0 “	8 “
Small Beer.....	“ “	0 “	6 “
Quart toddy with Loaf Sugar.....	1	“	4 “
Hot Breakfast.....	1	“	0 “
Cold “ .....	0	“	8 “



Common Dinner.....	1	shilling.	0	pence.
Extraordinary Dinner.....	1	"	6	"
Lodging per night, with clean sheet.....	0	"	4	"
Corn, per gallon.....	1	"	0	"
Oats, " " .....	1	"	0	"
Pastorage, per night.....	0	"	8	"
Stable, per night, with fodder.....	1	"	0	"
Supper .....	0	"	8	"

The attorneys who practiced in the first courts of Randolph county were: Nathaniel Williams, Andrew Jackson, William Cocke, Reuben Wood, Jesse Benton, John Williams, William Baily, William Nash, John Louis Taylor, William Crawford.

The county officers were elected by the county court and commissioned by the Governor, and were chosen to serve only one year, up to 1832, when the law was enacted providing for the election of county officers by the popular vote of the people, and the Sheriffs were after this time elected for the term of two years.

In 1795 Alexander Mebane received 156 votes for Congress, and was elected by a large majority over two other candidates in Randolph county.

Mind stamps its impress on the arts and industries of every age, on houses, roads, fields and implements of husbandry.

The log house, the broad-axe, the reap hook, the flax break, the hickory flail, the wooden key, the tallow candle, the flint and steel and touch wood reflect the vanished light of the dawn of mind.

So far have we diverged from the border land of olden times; and surrounded as we are by the triumphs of mind and the achievements of modern science, where the

music of machinery mingles its melody with the murmuring waters, and smoking furnaces and ringing anvils point to smiling villages and happy homes, it might be refreshing, in this age of fashion and progress, while the effacing hand of time and change is fast obliterating every sacred relict of the past, and every cherished emblem of domestic life has well-nigh lost its meaning and significance, to revert briefly to the simple rustic manners of the long ago.

The following extracts, copied from the minute docket of the county court from its formation in 1779 till its removal to Asheboro in 1793, may serve to exhibit the true status of society, and illustrate the taste and culture and morals of the people one hundred years ago:

At March Court, 1780—It is ordered that George Everby be recorded as a public liar, for speaking and propagating falsehoods against Richard Lewis.

September Court, 1784—Ordered that no person shall sell spirituous liquors in the Court House while court is sitting.

June Court, 1785—Nathaniel Williams, attorney, is fined 4 lbs. for contempt of court, ordered in custody of Sheriff. Absalom Tatum, Clerk of the Court, is fined 40 shillings for contempt of court—fine paid.

March Court, 1786—Ordered that the Sheriff and his deputies attend court in the future with their swords on, attended by three constables, each with a white stick six feet long.

December Court, 1787—Andrew Jackson, Esq., produced a license from the Honorable the Judges of the Superior Court of Law and Equity authorizing him to



practice as an attorney in the several county courts, took the oath prescribed and proceeded to practice in said courts.

March Court, 1788—Ordered that Col. William Moore be fined fifty pounds for contempt of court, by riding his horse into the Court House during the sitting of the court, and that he be committed to jail till the fine be paid; ordered that the Captain of the county aid the Sheriff, with a sufficient number of men, to execute this order as said Moore resists the Sheriff with arms.

James Lowe is allowed 20 shillings for a wolf scalp produced in court.

Thomas Knight is allowed five pounds for seven wild cat scalps which he produces to the court.

William Brookshire is allowed 15 shillings for a wolf scalp which he produces to the court.

Isaac Kearns is allowed 15 shillings for killing two wolves.

December Court, 1790—It is ordered that Capt. John Clark take the keys of the Court House into his possession and keep the doors and windows shut except on such days as the public business or divine service require them to be open.

September Court, 1791—Ordered that all persons retailing liquor of any kind without license, remove immediately twenty rods from the Court House.

One hundred years ago the overseers of the public roads were ordered to appear at the next term of the court and show why their roads were not in good condition. If they have ever appeared and rendered any satisfactory reason I am not aware of it.

Under the present road management our roads will remain bad till we adopt a system of draining the road bed.

These old county courts were abolished in 1868.

#### POSTAGE RATES.

Without presuming to enter upon an exploring expedition or to digress from the logical design and limit of this narrative, I may be permitted to append here, as a forcible contrast between the past and present, the first rates of postage fixed by act of Congress in 1792:

On single letters not exceeding 30 miles.....	6 cents
Over 30 and under 60 miles.....	8 "
Over 60 " " 100 " .....	10 "
Over 100 " " 150 " .....	12½ "
Over 150 " " 200 " .....	15 "
Over 200 " " 250 " .....	17 "
Over 250 " " 350 " .....	20 "
Over 350 " " 450 " .....	22 "
Over 450 miles.....	25 "

Friction matches were invented in 1829, but not in use in the South till after 1840. Steel pens were first used in the United States in 1830, but not generally used till 1845. Envelopes were first made in 1845. First postage stamps used in 1852.

The people of the olden time endured great hardships and privations. They possessed none of the luxuries and few of the comforts common to the present day.

There were no railroads then, their excursions were to the corn field and cotton patch. The insanity of base ball and lawn tennis never struck them.

Steam had not then lent its power to lighten labor in the domestic arts.

They had no sewing machine to ornament the hall, no cooking stove embellished the kitchen, no lamp illumined the sitting room. The light was the dim tallow dip, and the music was the wheel and cards. There were no friction matches in use, and when the fire was inadvertently suffered to go out it was produced by means of the flint and steel and touch wood, known in common parlance as punk. The forest pines, which now contribute so much light and comfort and happiness to man, had then never heard the sound of the axe or the song of the saw, but had only listened to the gentle whispers of the soft summer breeze, or started at the thundering tread of the gathering storm.

#### ASHEBORO COURT HOUSE.

In 1793 Jesse Henly conveyed to the Justices of Randolph county two acres of land on Abram's Creek for public buildings, and on June the 12th, 1793, the first court was held at Asheboro in a small wooden house.

In 1805 the Legislature passed an act authorizing Randolph county to build a new Court House, and a large two story frame house was built. This house was sold in 1830, and bought by Alfred Marsh and Benjamin Elliott and converted into a store, and a small brick house was built, which, in consequence of some defect in the walls, soon became unsafe and was torn down, and in 1835 the present main brick wall was erected under the contract and supervision of Jonathan Worth. In 1876 the north wing and the stair front were added. Thus this quiet

country village, encircled by the hills of pine, in unpretentious simplicity, has stood for a hundred years, without assuming an air of town life, unafflicted with burglars, tramps, or insurance agents, in the enjoyment of the greatest of earthly treasures, contentment and health.

In July, 1889, the H. R. A. and Southern Railroad was completed to this place. What influence this medium of travel and transportation is to exert on the future of a town a century old, containing two stores and twenty-two houses, time alone can tell.

#### JOHNSONVILLE.

This new town was named in compliment to Samuel Johnson, who was Governor of the State at that time, and Johnsonville now became the coming town, the Mecca of the desert, the centre of rank and fashion.

Among the many attractions of this place a county fair was organized and held here for many years, the leading features of which were horse racing, foot racing and shooting matches.

Here gathered learning, beauty, wealth and fashion. That grand old oak at the well, type of the primeval forest, lingering echo of a noble brotherhood and a vanished age, were it endowed with speech

Many a love romance could tell  
Of country beauty and of village belle.

A great life in any age of the world is illustrious. Greatness dignifies the simplest acts. Character adorns the humblest place. And whether Andrew Jackson was domiciled in Randolph county or not, or whether he only

stopped here to sun himself in beauties' eyes, here at least began a noble life that won

A name that beauty might not blush to bear,  
A fame that princes might be proud to share.

In 1767 the Province of North Carolina was divided into six Judicial Districts, Wilmington, Newbern, Edenton, Halifax, Hillsboro and Salisbury, and county courts were established in every county then *in esse* at the same time.

Randolph being comprised in the Hillsboro District our Superior Courts were held there till 1806, when the General Assembly passed an act establishing Superior Courts in every county.

The first Superior Court in Randolph county was accordingly held at Asheboro, on the first Monday in April, 1807, His Honor, Spruce McCay, Judge.

#### COL. DAVID FANNING

Was born in Wake county in 1755, and apprenticed to a loom maker. When about twenty-two years of age he moved to Chatham county, where he was appointed Colonel of the Royal Militia about the beginning of the Revolutionary war.

Here he began his marauding exploits, which soon filled the country with the terror of his name and distinguished him as the most daring and successful bandit of the age.

With a small force under his command he adopted the Guerrilla warfare, and made frequent predatory incursions

into Randolph county, where house burning, pillage and murder marked his course.

Andrew Hunter was an ardent advocate of liberty and lived on Little River, where ————— now lives.

Fanning had long marked him as the victim of his murder, and one day as Hunter was going along the road, not far from Burney's bridge, he met Fanning and his men. They dismounted, and leaving their horses unhitched in the road, made Hunter get out, and told him they would hang him in fifteen minutes. Fanning had a fine mare he called Bay Doe, which an old Tory had given him, and which he highly valued for her fleetness and intelligence. While they were eating some rations, which they took from Hunter's wagon, Hunter sprang upon Bay Doe and dashed off through the woods. Fanning's men fired several shots, but Hunter escaped with Bay Doe and a fine brace of pistols, belonging to Fanning. After this Hunter was one day encompassed by Fanning's force on the bank of Deep River, where Franklinsville now stands; here he plunged down a steep rock some fifty feet into the river and made his escape with Bay Doe. This rock stands on the south side of the river just behind the Mill, and is as steep as an ordinary house roof.

England was rich and powerful, and for Fanning's selfish uncultured instincts the ensign of Royalty, the allurements of British gold and the glittering pageantry of office, had greater fascination than the cause of humanity and freedom embarked in a struggle to solve the problem of man's capacity for self-government. Fanning had implicit confidence in the success of the Royal cause, and was elated with the prospect of being rewarded with large



possessions, and perhaps attaining the Governorship of North Carolina.

The life of Fanning is a fitting illustration of the pernicious consequences of a neglected early moral and religious education.

The influence of kindness, for good, with children as well as men and communities, is incalculable. Harsh and cruel treatment of children crush out the better impulses of the heart, and stimulate the base and inhuman instincts of passion.

With the proper training and culture, Fanning's native genius and daring might have rendered his name as renowned for good as it has been for evil. He was a North Carolinian. His invincible spirit and lion-hearted bravery might have won for him imperishable honor, and rendered the name of Fanning the brightest ornament that adorns the pages of American history. He might have stood with Marion and Sumpter and Greene and lived in the hearts and affections of a grateful people, but he chose the side of wrong. He followed Saul and served a foreign power, and proved that the way of the transgressor is hard. All prefer to be on the side that wins, and Fanning no doubt believed he was right and that the great American rebellion ought to be suppressed. But he was cruel and vindictive. Extremes are dangerous and wrong. Our moderation should be known to all men. There are none so great they cannot fall so low they cannot rise.

Why Fanning was never killed strikes the reader as a hidden mystery. For some time after the surrender at Yorktown, and after the British Army had left the State,



he remained here and continued his depredations and warfare in open defiance of law and authority.

Fanning and his lawless band finally ran away to South Carolina and then to East Florida, and from thence Fanning fled with his family to New Brunswick, and died on the Island of Nova Scotia in 1825.

A number of his band were shot, some were captured and hanged, others fled the State, and hundreds, who were in silent sympathy with the British, when the Tory cause failed, came up and submitted, took the oath of allegiance and were discharged and became true and loyal citizens.

These incidents in the life of Fanning are extracted from the published narrative of the journal written by Col. Fanning himself of his adventures in North Carolina from 1775 to 1783.

The following memorial, presented by Fanning to the British aid commission, will suggest to the reader some of the incidents in the military career of Col. Fanning:

*To the Honorable Commissioners appointed by act of Parliament to enquire into the losses and services of the American Loyalists:*

The Memorial of David Fanning, late Colonel of the North Carolina Militia, humbly showeth: That your Memoriallist is a Loyalist from North Carolina; who uniformly and religiously adhered to his duty and loyalty to the best of sovereigns, for which he suffered persecution and many other inconveniences; that your Memoriallist, by a warrant from Major Craig, of the 82nd Regiment, then commanding at Wilmington, was placed at the head

of the Militia of that Province; that your Memoriallist during the late war did command from one to nine hundred and fifty men, with whom he was engaged in six and thirty skirmishes in North Carolina and four in South Carolina, all of which were of his own planning and in which he had the honor to command; that your Memoriallist killed many of the Rebels, and took many of them prisoners. Among the latter were Governor Burke, his council, and many officers of distinction in the Rebel army; that your Memoriallist was during that time twice wounded and fourteen times taken prisoner; that on the conclusion of peace your Memoriallist settled two hundred and fifty souls in East Florida; and having took refuge in several parts of his Majesty's remaining possessions in America, finally settled in the province of New Brunswick, where he now is, in great distress, with his family; that your Memoriallist, in consequence of his said loyalty to his sovereign; the many services rendered him; and attachment to the British Government, had his property, real and personal, seized, confiscated and sold by Rebel authority.

Your Memoriallist therefore prays that his case may be taken into consideration, in order that he may be enabled, under your report, to receive such aid or relief as his case may be found to deserve.

DAVID FANNING.

St. John, March 1st, 1786.

Andrew Balfour, whose name is intimately associated with the early history of Randolph county, came from Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1772, leaving a young wife and infant child in Scotland. About a year after his arrival

in America his wife died, and his sister, Margaret, emigrated to Charleston, South Carolina, where her brother, John, was living, bringing her little niece with her.

Col. Andrew Balfour, a short while after his wife's death, married Elizabeth Dayton, of New Port, Rhode Island, and came to Randolph county in 1779, and settled on the road about two miles east of Macon's old store. Here he bought land and built a log house, where his sister, Margaret, and little daughter joined him in his new wild wood home, which was to be further illuminated by the presence of his wife, who all this time had remained in New Port, as soon as the perils of war would admit her coming. Colonel Balfour was an earnest advocate of American liberty, and early endeared himself to the Whigs by his rare courage, independent thought and self-sacrificing devotion to the cause of freedom; and the name of Balfour became a terror to Tories and traitors. He was commissioned a Justice of the Peace in 1779, and Colonel of the Militia, and was a member of the Legislature in 1780.

But here, alas!

Nothing scarce begins till it is done,  
No spring or winter, rise or set of sun.

At his rustic home, amid the fascinations of nature's wild charm, when the first rosy blush of spring was repeating the glad anthem of peace on earth and good will to men, on Sabbath morning, the 10th day of March, 1782, in the presence of his sister and his little daughter, Andrew Balfour was brutally murdered by Col. David Fanning and his band of Tories. He was buried on the old

farm and his grave is still to be seen. The rock spring house is standing yet, but the house in which he was murdered is gone, but the exact spot is well identified.

Let the life of Colonel Balfour, and the tender and hallowed associations that cluster around his grave, inspire our hearts with a broader charity, and a higher appreciation of our homes, our people, and our privileges, and a more abiding trust and dependence in Him who rules and directs the affairs of men, and thank Him that we live in an age and in a land of Peace and Freedom.

Upon hearing of her husband's tragic death, Mrs. Balfour came to Randolph, but after remaining at the old farm a short while she went to Salisbury, where she was appointed Post Mistress by George Washington. Hence Elizabeth Dayton Balfour, of Randolph county, became the first Post Mistress in America.

The Balfour place is now owned by Henry Rush.

Colonel Balfour's son, Andrew Balfour, married Mary Henly, a daughter of John Henly, a prominent member of the Society of Friends, who lived on Caraway at the Samuel H. Hale place, now owned by William Kearns.

Eliza Balfour, a daughter of Andrew and Mary, married J. M. A. Drake, who recently died in Illinois.

Colonel Balfour's daughter, who came when a child, with her aunt, from Scotland, married John Troy, whose son John B. Troy, Esq., and his numerous progeny are well and favorably known to the people of Randolph.

The Balfour name is almost extinct. It is only commemorated in Balfour Lodge of Asheboro. The graves of the Balfours are together on the old farm, a sorrowful sadness gathers about the place, and the rocks and trees

are bent with years of grief. Here let our love and veneration for the dead prompt us to pause and bestow the tender tribute of a flower or tear

Upon the lonely time worn grave,  
Where rest the innocent and brave.

Captain William Clark, one of the most daring and determined spirits of that day, lived near where Naomi Factory now stands, on the south side of Deep River. He was the acknowledged leader of the Whig party in Randolph, and to him the post of danger had a fascination which he loved and sought.

It was Clark who captured and killed John Elrod and Samuel Still, two notorious Tories who lived in the fork of the Yadkin River. These men made a raid into Randolph and murdered Henry Johnson in the road near where J. M. Blair now lives.

Captain Clark with a few men pursued these desperadoes and found them asleep in Elrod's house with their guns by them; here Clark, with a fence rail, broke the door down and seized these murderers before they could make any resistance. This was at night, and Elrod and Still were tied, taken a little way from the house and shot. Any one can be brave where there is no danger, but Captain Clark's greatest bravery was evinced in the hour of greatest peril. After the war he joined the Friends at Centre meeting house, laid aside his sword and his scalping knife and became a zealous and devoted follower of the Prince of Peace.

Far from our destined port we often land;  
The life we live is not the life we planned.

His son, Dougan Clark, afterwards became an eminent minister of the Gospel of the Society of Friends.

William Millikan was a Quaker and lived on the west side of the plank road, south of New Market. He was a zealous Friend and advocate of liberty and took an active part in the civil affairs of the county, and enjoyed, in an eminent degree, the esteem and confidence of the public. His house was burned by the Tories.

Col. Thomas Dougan lived at the Cross Roads and had a store there. He was a man of influence and culture, and might be fitly termed a chief among the mighty men of valor. He was captured at one time by Fanning and taken out with a rope around his neck to be hanged, but through the intervention of some of Fanning's men, who were personal friends of Dougans, Fanning was induced to release him. After the war he was elected a member of the Legislature from Randolph county, and served three terms in the Senate.

William Bell lived at the William Welborn place, on the west side of Deep River, and owned what is now known as the Walker Mill. He was the first Sheriff of the county, and served two terms in the Legislature.

#### HERMAN HUSBANDS

Came from Pennsylvania and settled on Sandy Creek, about 1751, where W. P. Fox, Esq., now lives. He was raised a Friend, and was a relative of Benjamin Franklin. His devotion to the cause of American independence bordered on fanaticism, and in the darkest hour of our country's struggle Herman Husband was the great leader of the Whig party in Randolph and Chatham. Like St.



Paul he seemed to love the post of danger and was never at a loss to find it. Possessing amazing courage and irrepressible resolution he boldly attacked the corruption and extortion of Royal officials, and defied the minions of British power. He commanded the Regulators at the battle of Alamance in 1771, and was afterwards a member of the Legislature, and owned a large tract of land on Deep River, near Buffalo Ford, granted him by Lord Granville.

#### JOHN COLLIER

Was Lieutenant of the Randolph Militia, Sheriff, County Surveyor, and a member of the Legislature. He owned a large landed estate and lived on Caraway, not far from Maud Post Office.

#### JEDUTHAN HARPER

Lived on or near what is known as the General Gray place. Harper was a man of extensive property and his prominence was derived more from his financial ability than his literary taste. He was a leader in his day, however, and filled the various offices of Justice of the Peace, Register of Deeds, Clerk of the Court, and was elected to the Legislature in 1780; he and Andrew Balfour serving in the House and John Collier in the Senate. The lands owned by Harper were designated as the Richlands and have ever been noted for their forests of large and beautiful trees. This land originally belonged to Henry Eustice McCulloch, a proprietary under Granville, and was confiscated after the war and sold by the commissioners of confiscated property.



All these men owned slaves, and slavery was then regarded as a necessity, not only as the chief element of labor, but as a protection to the white settlers.

The colored man helped to settle this country and many perished in defence of their masters' homes and property. This thought should ever remain a bond of sympathy and friendship between the two races, and an incentive to both to maintain the blessings of peace and freedom and elevate the negro to that degree of modern civilization that will fit him for useful and respectable citizenship.

#### SLAVERY.

In 1620 a Dutch vessel from Guinea brought over twenty negroes and sold them to the planters in Virginia. This was the beginning of slavery in America.

Slaves could be freed by order and decree of the court, on the petition of the owner setting forth the name, age and sex of the slave, and alleging that he or she had been a faithful and obedient servant, whereupon the court would decree that they be forever free and discharged from servitude.

Thus before the year 1800 all the Friends and many others had liberated their slaves. About this time the law was amended and no slave owner was permitted to free or liberate a slave without first giving bond and good security conditioned that the slave leave the State in ninety days and never return. Slavery continued to exist in the South, the choice of some and the necessity of others, till the suppression of the great Southern rebellion in 1865, when its ship went down forever amid the crash of ruined fortunes.

## WOMAN.

While history records to distant times the deeds of man and rends the air with the plaudits of his name, how little homage is paid to suffering, patient, self-sacrificing woman.

The name of Mary Dougan, Elizabeth Balfour, Jane Millikan, Ruth Farlow, Nancy Clark, Mattie Bell and others, should be held in lasting veneration as the heroines of Randolph county in the struggle for liberty and life. It was these noble women and their compeers who moulded opinion and shaped the thought and sentiment that directed the march of progress. Where the voice of authority failed to direct, where the hand of power could not control, and where armed resistance dared not venture, woman's reason and affection persuaded and prevailed. She mitigated the passions and tumults of political strife, taught the law of mercy and kindness and her prayers and sacrifices and sufferings and patience contributed largely to the establishment of that liberty and prosperity which we enjoy to-day.

They foresaw through the shadowy dawn the grand possibility of our future prosperity, and for them is reserved the laurels of peaceful triumph and the tribute of a tear that embalms the memory of the good and great

Who plan and shape the progress of the age  
Are oft denied a place on history's page.

## THE OLD FARM.

Among the hills of Randolph county may still be seen, now and then, a solitary log house which has survived

the wreck of matter and the waste of time. Built upon the slope of the sunny meadow, with open porch and wide stone chimney, where the great ancestral oak, the rock and the maple point to the bubbling spring, the most joyous feature of the farm.

The trunks of dead apple trees on the hill side, almost hidden by broom sedge and briars, tell where the orchard stood, that hallowed resort of innocence and love.

That tangled covert of pine and cedar, whose long and peaceable possession has ripened into an undisputed title, marks the desolate field where the glad shout of the harvester was once heard. Upon these old farms the consecrating touch of time has left a fruitful theme for thought and reflection. Once the home of happy childhood, the abode of struggling manhood and hope of all that is good and noble and daring in human nature, let these hallowed recollections inspire our hearts with a higher appreciation and love of our county, our people, our homes, and our farms, and our privileges, and enlighten our minds to see in the waste places, not the grave yards of a vanished barbarism, but the glorious ideal of the voice of the Lord walking in the Garden.

#### THE OLD MEETING HOUSE.

To each successive generation the world is new. We find it as it is, and have little conception of the remote antiquity of our country or the changes that time has wrought. If we turn back one hundred years we find time-worn graves, old men, old houses, old roads, old fields, old churches, courts, trials, lawyers, administra-

tions, wills, conveyances, counterfeit money, politicians, &c.

The Back Creek meeting house lot was conveyed by Thomas Winslow to the trustees of the Quaker church in 1787, and a meeting house was on the lot then.

Uwharrie meeting house lot was conveyed in 1793 to the trustees of the Friends church, and there was a house there then. This meeting has long since gone down, but the old house is standing yet on the east side of Uwharrie River, not far from where N. H. Hill now lives.

Marlboro meeting house lot was conveyed by James Allen to the trustees of Friends meeting in 1797, and there was a meeting house on the lot then.

Mt. Pleasant meeting house, on the south side of big Brush Creek, was conveyed to the trustees of the church in 1798, and there was a meeting house there then. I think this was a Methodist church. The trustees were Isaac Redfern, John Edwards, John Grady, Wm. Rains, Lewis Brady, Martin Fesmire, James Williams, Jerry Williams.

Old Union Methodist church was built about the year 1786, and there the first camp meeting in North Carolina was held in 1802.

Holly Springs meeting house lot was granted to the use of the people called Quakers in 1787, and the house was there then.

In 1791 the Calvinist congregation built a meeting house on Sandy Creek.

About the year 1800 the Baptists built a church, on Millstone Creek, called Welborn's Chapel.

These are some of the monuments erected by the noble

pioneers of civilization. Their founders are gone. Their names are forgotten, but their influence is still seen and felt and tongue and pen and utterance in fitting tribute will embalm their memories in song and story, and while freedom has a votary, or truth a friend, their praise will be more enduring than the crown of the Cæsars.

Driven by the hand of persecution to quit their native land they sought a refuge in the trackless wilds of America, some of whom found a home in Randolph county, on the quiet, secluded banks of the Uwharrie River, and laid the foundation of civil and religious liberty in Randolph county.

Is it strange that Christianity has always been opposed by the world? It was manifested in the death of Abel. In the persecution of Joseph. In the bondage of the Hebrews. In the crucifixion of the Saviour.

As Christianity has ever been in hostility to a corrupt and sinful world, the world has ever been arrayed against it.

Kingdoms and Empires have united to destroy it. Fires, racks and tortures have been used to suppress it. But it has prevailed and without force or resort to arms, it has spread and prospered under the hands of persecution and its preservation and growth prove its divinity. Had Christianity never been persecuted it would barely exist to-day. That is the means employed by Providence to teach man that the way of the Lord is right and no device of man can prevail against it. When man violates the established laws of nature, he becomes the author of his own punishment. From conquests higher civilizations rise. Oppression scatters seeds of peace and free-

dom. Through struggles come victory, through victory peace.

The early emigrants to this country comprised the best blood and character and talent of Europe.

They brought with them their trades, their arts, their skill and industries, and many became pioneers in education, peace, and freedom.

The Quakers did not all follow William Penn to Pennsylvania, a number of them landed at Charleston and settled in South Carolina, and established a monthly meeting at Bush River.

Notably among these was Thomas English, who married Margaret Flynn, a cousin to Lord Cornwallis. They settled in Columbia, South Carolina, and virtually founded the city.

Their daughter, Anna English, married Samuel Tomlinson, and removed to the pine woods of Rowan county, and settled near where the town of Thomasville now stands, and their descendants are yet numerous in Randolph, Guilford and Davidson, in the family of the Blairs, Englishes and Tomlinsons.

#### EDUCATION.

In the year 1836, during the last year of President Jackson's administration, North Carolina received from the National Treasury, as her part of the surplus revenue, one million dollars as a permanent literary fund, and it was invested in certain bank and railroad stock.

In 1839 the Legislature passed an act providing for the division of the counties into School Districts, and making it the duty of the county courts to appoint five Superin-



tendents in each county to lay off the School Districts and to appoint three School Committeemen in each District, and to call an election and ascertain whether or not the people wanted free schools. The election was held on the 8th day of August, 1839, accordingly, and nearly every county in the State voted in favor of schools; and thereupon our free schools started in the fall of 1840. Prior to this time there were few school houses, few teachers and few schools. The only educational facilities afforded the masses accrued when by chance some old schoolmaster came along and got up a short subscription school during the winter in some old untenanted dwelling house, and these simple primitive institutions could only find support in the more densely settled communities, and in the sparsely inhabited sections of the county the children never saw a school house.

These teachers could teach spelling, reading, writing and arithmetic as far as the single rule of three, this rule corresponded to that department of numbers designated in the modern books as proportion. The Testament and spelling book were the principal text books used.

The girls were not required to study arithmetic. It was never dreamed that woman would ever so far depart from her sphere of kitchen ethics as to grace the teacher's chair, or adorn the classic field of polite literature.

This was the age of quill pens and tallow candles; the boys cleared new grounds and split rails and built fence. The girls carded, spun and wove at home all the clothing worn by the family. Every home was a little manufacturing industry. The wheel and cards and loom were indispensable articles of furniture in every well ordered



house. Upon the invention of labor-saving machinery, and the introduction of improved methods of transportation these household industries were closed, the labor was transferred to the river or the town, domestic craft was set at naught, and the old time-honored wheel and cards and loom and reel were moved to the garret as effete symbols of a vanished age, or became the fruitful sport of busy children. By the use of labor-saving machinery, one man now can perform the labor of five men fifty years ago. This decreased demand for field hands draws labor from the country and drives it to the town. Thus the towns are constantly growing larger and the country less. The application of steam as a motive power, the introduction of improved machinery, the division of labor, even in the production of a single article, draws labor from the farm, diversifies skilled industries, and towns and villages are built up.

Old ways are abandoned, plantation manners are laid aside, airs of idleness are put on, new wants are created, expenses are multiplied, the Muggletons come to the surface, and we have civilized society. Again, pride becomes the vice of fools, some expediency is resorted to, to conceal a natural deformity of body or mind, folly adopts it, the world bows to the dictates of its despotism, and we have the latest fashion. Modern society is too expensive, it costs too much to keep up appearances, it has made many a poet sigh for a lodge in some wilderness vast, or a home in the secluded precincts of a desert.

Poor contrivance makes hard times—bad luck is only another name for bad management. The farmer must learn to plan as well as plow, and in all the relations of

life consult comfort and common sense more, and follow fashion less, keep out of politics and educate his children to think. The poor stand most in need of an education; they can't afford to grow up in ignorance. The rich can. Brain is worth more than money; Sabbath Schools are less expensive than the penitentiary; freedom is cheaper than slavery; one improved reaper will do the work of five slaves and is five fold cheaper.

Truth and honesty among men, though sadly out of fashion, never wear out, are never barred by the statute of limitation, but still survive to relume the world and shed a lustre upon the counsels of men redolent with the breath of wisdom.

#### OLD MILLS.

Although water mills were invented about the beginning of the Christian era, few were to be found in Randolph till after the Revolutionary War. The people boiled their corn and made hominy. Some of the wealthiest people used hand mills, but the common class used graters and grated the corn to make meal or pounded it in mortars.

John Barton built a mill on Stinking Quarter in 1781.

Andrew Hoover had a mill in the forks of Uwharrie in 1778, now known as Arnold's Mill.

Elisha Mendenhall built Coltrane's Mill on Deep River about 1787.

William Bell built the mill now known as Walker's Mill about 1782.

Samuel Walker owned a mill on Sandy Creek, and devised it to his son, William Walker in 1773.

Solomon Fuller owned a mill on Caraway at the Rough Shoals in 1785.

Thomas Cox had a mill somewhere on Deep River in 1784.

John Henly built a mill on Uwharrie about 1784.

#### UWHARRIE RIVER.

This beautiful stream flows through the middle belt of the western half of the county, and has been there from time whereof the memory of man extendeth not. It derives its name from "Werra," a river of Germany about the same size, which flows along the confines of lower Saxony and enters the Northern ocean. It was named by some German refugees, who settled on Uwharrie about 1690, and means the River of Mills.

In all the older records where the word is used it is spelled Warra, from which we deduce the conclusion the modern prefix "u" and "hu," so indiscriminately used, are perversions of new, and the name originally was New Warra.

Every student of history is familiar with the fact, that in the year 1685, when Louis the XIV, King of France, revoked the famous Edict of Nantz, hundreds of the persecuted Huguenots and others took refuge in America, where they brought with them their arts, their mechanical skill and habits of industry, which had been taught them by the great and noble Colbert, the King's Prime Minister.

#### DEEP RIVER.

We walk beside the river and stand upon its mossy banks, our thoughts steal away on the dashing waves

and are lost in the wide expanse of futurity. For hundreds of years this river has sported along the same time worn channel, over the same bending rocks, and made the same sad music it does to-day.

Others long since passed away, vanished beauty and unspoken love, have listened to the music of its murmurs, and felt the inspiration of its song of progress and freedom.

A hundred years hence its voice will be heard. It speaks of time to come and years long passed. Others will stand on its sunny banks and gaze on its sparkling waters, and listen to the laugh of the dashing waves.

It will rush on and on like the ceaseless tide of time till lost in the great ocean of eternity.

This is our beautiful Sapona, whose idle waters were once the sport and companion of the Indian, whose camp grounds and huts but typified the rising villages of busy industry that dot and adorn her peaceful, happy borders to-day.

#### CEDAR FALLS

Was the first cotton mill established in Randolph county, and was built in 1836 by Benjamin Elliott, Phillip Horney, Alfred H. Marsh and Henry B. Elliott.

This is a historic place and is surrounded with many hallowed associations of the olden time.

In 1755 the lands on both sides of Deep River, including the spot where this village now stands, and then called Cedar Falls, were granted to Hermon Husband by the Earl of Granville.

Benjamin Elliott subsequently acquired possession of

the property and operated a grist and flouring mill there for a number of years before the factory was built.

This factory is owned and conducted by J. M. Worth, O. R. Cox and George H. Makepeace, under whose skill and ability Cedar Falls has become the queen of the river, and the cedar thicket has been transformed into a smiling village of thrift and busy industry.

#### FRANKLINVILLE,

The second factory established in this county, was built in 1838 by Elisha Coffin, Henry B. Elliott, Henry Kivett, and John Miller.

The land where Franklinville is now located was granted to Jacob Skeen in 1784.

In 1801 Christian Morris bought the lands and built a grist mill, and in 1820 Morris conveyed it to Elisha Coffin, who then, with prophetic eye, foresaw the future greatness and glory of Deep River, and named that wild wilderness place, where idle sporting waters mocked the weary mill, "Franklinville," in compliment to Jesse Franklin, who was then the Governor of the State.

This mill was destroyed by fire in 1850, but was soon rebuilt.

It is now owned by Benjamin Moffitt, Hugh Parks and Mrs. E. E. Moffitt.

Its beautiful natural scenery, its flowers and gardens, the taste and culture of its people all conspire to make Franklinville the gem of the river.

## ISLAND FORD

Was built in 1845 by Elisha Coffin, A. S. Horney, J. M. Coffin, Emery Coffin, B. F. Coffin, J. H. Foster, George Makepeace, John Green, Mike Cox, Thomas A. Hendricks, Minerva Mendenhall, Nathan M. Cox and others. Elisha Coffin and A. S. Horney owned this land and conveyed it to the company. Its name has since been changed to the "Randolph Manufacturing Company," and is now owned and operated chiefly by Hugh Parks, a man who has devoted his life to manufacturing and made it a success.

The oldest records refer to Island Ford, and we assume it is the oldest crossing perhaps on Deep River.

As light travels with the sun from East to West, here the first adventurers from the East, on their journey West, through the trackless wood, first found a crossing at Island Ford.

## RANDLEMAN

Is the largest manufacturing establishment in the county. Away back in the shadowy past, Peter Dicks had a grist mill and an oil mill at this place. It was then called Dickes. In 1848 Jesse Walker, William Clark, Joseph Newlin, James Dix and William Hinshaw erected a cotton mill here and called it Union Factory.

In 1866 John Randleman and John H. Ferree acquired control of the property, when the name was changed to Randleman.

This factory was burnt in 1885, but immediately rebuilt and has grown into a flourishing town, and ranks among the leading manufacturing centres of the State.



It is now owned and operated by J. H. Ferree and J. O. Pickard.

And the banging loom, and the buzzing spindle, and the eternal thunder of machinery proclaim each day the praise of its founders.

Under this subject we include the C. C. Randleman Cotton Mills, owned and operated by C. C. Randleman, and Plaidville, which belongs to Randleman proper.

#### COLUMBIA.

This factory was built in 1850 by Isaac H. Foust, Washington Brower, Henry Kivett and David Kime. The village is situated a short distance below where Sandy Creek empties into the river, and is noted for the wild beauty and romantic features of the place. The factory is now owned and operated by W. H. Watkins and A. W. E. Caple, and fair Columbia is taking rank among the foremost towns in the county. The branch road is now being extended from Millboro to this place, and when completed, Columbia, at the terminus of the route, will become an important commercial centre, and will emblazon the future map of Randolph county as the morning star of Deep River. This place is now called Ramseur.

#### NAOMI.

This factory was built in 1879 by J. E. Walker, John H. Ferree, J. O. Pickard and Amos Gregson, and derives its name from Naomi Wise, a beautiful girl, who was drowned at this place about the year 1808 by Jonathan Lewis.

The lands where this factory is located were entered in

1782 by Levi Pennington, and by him conveyed to Thos. Dougan in 1784, and purchased by John Hinshaw in 1800 from John Underhill. Hinshaw built a grist mill here, and the old mill race is still visible.

Here was also the old trading ford across Deep River, which was an established trading post between the white settlers and the Indians long before the Revolutionary War. There was likewise another trading ford across Pole Cat, east of New Salem. Though among the youngest of her sisters, Naomi possesses all the elements of a prosperous and flourishing village, and the tragic charms that cluster here, the romance of love and murder, the sorrowing sighs of the murmuring waves make Naomi the most inviting and attractive place on the river.

#### WORTHVILLE

Was built in 1881, by J. M. Worth and T. C. Worth, at the old crossing called Hopper's Ford, from Charles Hopper, who entered this land and located near the Ford over one hundred years ago. This is a magnificent factory building, and the town is handsomely laid out on the west side of the river, just below the mouth of Pole Cat Creek. This site had never been improved before, and though too young to have a history, Worthville is an ornament to Deep River, an honor to the county of Randolph, and a living monument to the public spirit and enterprise of the men whose name and memory it will long perpetuate.

#### CENTRAL FALLS

Was built in 1881, by J. H. Ferree, J. E. Walker, A. M. Diffie, J. A. Blair, W. P. Wood, W. H. Ragan, J. H.

Millis, J. O. Pickard, R. W. Frazer, G. S. Bradshaw, Mrs. E. K. Walker, Amos Gregson, R. M. Free, W. S. Ball. This is confessedly the neatest village on the river, and the factory building is unrivalled in beauty and elegance. Central is now consolidated with Worthville, and is operated and controlled by the Worthville Manufacturing Company, and managed by J. S. McAlister and Claude Morris.

#### ENTERPRISE

Is the youngest of the family, and was built in 1883 by E. A. Moffitt, James A. Cole and Daniel Lambert, at the place formerly known as Foust's Mill. This factory is far away over the hills, where the wild sporting waters mutter their pensive lays to the laughing myrtle and holly that shelter the fern fringed banks.

Enterprise has thus early established a reputation for the high grade and quality of its goods, its excellent flouring mills, and its unsurpassed water power.

SHERIFFS OF RANDOLPH COUNTY AND DATE OF THEIR  
ELECTION.

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William Bell	elected in	1779
John Collier	" "	1782
William Pickett	" "	1784
John Arnold	" "	1786
Robert McLean	" "	1788
Simeon Geron	" "	1790
Isaac Lane	" "	1800
Thomas Hancock	" "	1826
George Hoover	" "	1827
Isaac White	" "	1840
Hezekiah Andrews	" "	1846
J. W. Steed	" "	1850
Z. F. Rush	" "	1864
R. F. Trogdon	" "	1868
W. R. Ashworth	" "	1872
O. R. Cox	" "	1876
Benj. Millikan	" "	1878
E. A. Moffitt	" "	1880
J. S. Swaim	" "	1888

Strange as it may seem, through a period of more than a hundred years, Randolph has only had nineteen Sheriffs, six of whom are living at this time.

GOLD MINES.

The mineral resources of Randolph county have long been held in high estimation.

In 1665 King Charles the Second granted to eight of his Lords Proprietors all the Carolinas and the lands extending west to the Pacific Ocean.

These lands were all afterwards reconveyed to the

Crown of England, and in 1744 King George the Second granted to John Earl Granville, under the name and style of John Lord Carteret, one-eighth part of all the territory heretofore granted by Charles the Second to his eight Lords. This grant comprised all the territory south of the Virginia line, extending from the Atlantic Ocean to the Mississippi River.

Under this grant Earl Granville sold many valuable tracts of land to the first settlers in Randolph county, and in every deed of conveyance of land on Tom's Creek, Hannah's Creek and Little River, he reserves to the King one fourth of the mineral, gold and silver, and to himself one half of the remaining three fourths.

#### EARL GRANVILLE.

John Earl Granville was the son of Sir George Carteret, and in his grant was comprised all of North Carolina and Tennessee. This was a big farm for one man to own, and here may be seen a trace of the ancient English Feudal law that so richly rewarded the faithful.

What an air of importance a man assumes when he has money to loan or land to sell. Earl Granville began selling lands in the eastern and then settled portion of this vast domain; a bonanza fortune rolled at his feet, but

"The best laid plans of mice and men  
Oft gang alee."

His right was disputed, a controversy arose as to the validity of his title, there was a resort to arms, the Revolutionary War came, the cause was determined, and all the issues found for the Colonists; and thereupon all the

lands in this Province remaining unsold when Granville's title failed, instead of reverting to the King of England, became a part of the public domain of the State and subject to entry. It will be observed that all the original grants before the war were from Lord Carteret or Earl Granville.

#### EIGHTY YEARS AGO.

In 1810 the Court appointed a jury of twelve men to view and lay off a road the nearest and best way to the Guilford county line to meet the road leading from Guilford Court House near Centre meeting house. They reported that six of their number were of the opinion that the road already laid out and opened by way of Island Ford to Centre meeting house was the nearest and best that could be had. The other six were of the opinion that a road from Centre meeting house to cross Deep River at Dickes Mill would be the nearest and best. They therefore recommended to the Court, that as both roads could be travelled then, and there was little probability that either would be needed as market highways or for any other purpose than the accommodation of a few transient travellers and adjacent inhabitants, that neither of said roads be established as public roads at present. This is noted merely to show the wild wilderness state of the county at that time, and how little intelligent men foresaw of the grand possibilities of our future progress and development.

#### ASHEBORO

Is in the centre of the county and near the centre of the State and is the centre of much that is good and great.



It is seventy-two miles west from Raleigh, and was named in compliment to Samuel Ashe, a distinguished soldier and statesman in the days of the American Revolution and who became Governor of the State in 1795, soon after the removal of the Court House to its present site.

In the year 1786 Jesse Henly entered two hundred acres of land at and including the centre of the county. How he found the centre, in the darkness and gloom of the trackless wood, will ever remain a mystery. The farther away an object is, the better some men can see it. The native instinct of the Indian and buffalo marked out our roads and fixed our fords.

Here at the crossing of two Indian trails, where the gushing spring went gurgling over the rocks beneath the branches of the giant trees, where the camp of the Indian gleamed in the soft light of the summer sun, where the great chief held his council of war and planned the order of the chase, was typified the busy village of a future civilization.

Jesse Henly lived on Caraway, where Winborne Andrews now lives, and was the father of John Henly.

When Henly entered this land there was a small cabin on it, near the spring a little north of where the old Hoover House now stands, and an old man lived there by the name of Abram. He had a small patch cleared around his house and lived chiefly by fishing and hunting, and, it is said, could stand in his door and shoot deer and wild turkeys. In 1793 Henly conveyed to the Justices of the county and their successors, for the public buildings, two acres of this land.

The county paid ten shillings for the two acres, which formed a rectangle twenty poles north and south and sixteen poles east and west.

In 1806 the Legislature passed an act authorizing the County Court to appoint three Commissioners to sell off a part of the public lot, and the Court accordingly appointed Joshua Cox, Clement Arnold and John Brower, who thereupon sold to Benjamin Elliott the corner where the Asheboro Hotel now stands, 134 feet north and south by 99 east and west for \$43. They also sold the Moffitt corner, 134 feet by 99, to Alexander Gray and Jesse Harper, for \$33.50.

These Commissioners also sold a lot off the north-west corner and one off the north-east corner, leaving one acre now comprising the Public Square.

The lines on the east and west sides remain as originally established. John Moss bought four lots from Henly, put up a store and moved here. He joined the original Public Square on the south, which was about where M. S. Robin's law office now is. Jacob Elliott bought the lot west of the Court House, now occupied by the store of W. P. Wood and Company.

George McCulloch bought three lots on the west side of a street then called McCulloch street. He was a lawyer, and lived at or about where the Post Office now stands.

Joshua Craven bought twenty-five acres touching the north-east corner of the Public Square, and George Swearingim bought the chinquapin thicket on the east side of the Public Square, now occupied by J. A. Blair.

Jacob Hoover and John Arnold owned the land on the north-west corner of the Public Square.

In 1843 Jonathan Worth, Col. Joshua A. Craven and Hugh McCain, Commissioners of the Town, employed Col. Isaac Lane to make an accurate survey of the public grounds, composing the square around the Court House and public streets.

A correct plat of the town according to this survey is diagramed in the minute docket at November Court, 1843, near the first of the book. A copy of the original plat of the town can also be found in the office of the Register of Deeds, in Book 38, known to Court House society as Jumbo. At each of the twelve angles or corners of the Public Square they caused a soapstone rock to be planted extending one foot in the ground and two inches above the surface. These rocks were brown soapstone, four inches square at the top. At the east angle of South street, the brick store of E. A. Moffitt extends ten inches north of this rock, which was visible when the store was built. The store house of W. P. Wood and Company on the west is also about ten inches on the public grounds. These venerable landmarks, suggestive of the twelve stones set up by Joshua in Gilgal, are all gone but one; this is at the north-east corner of J. A. Blair's lot.

36	29	15	8	1
37	30	C. H. 16	9	2
38	31	17	10	3
39	32	POST 18 OFFICE	Printing 11 Office	4
40	33	19	12	5
41	34	20	13	6
42	35	21	14	7
		22		
		JAIL 23		
		24		
		25		
		26		
		27		
		28		

Asheboro was originally laid out in lots of one acre each, as shown in the annexed plat, extending south ten degrees, west 10 poles, and south eighty degrees, east 16 poles.

The streets are two poles wide, except the two main streets, which are four poles wide and cross at the Court House.

Many of these lots have since been consolidated and others have been subdivided. In fact, a number of the streets originally located were never opened at all, and buildings are standing in the very line of the streets.

The Court House Square, like other public essentials, has been made the victim of cornering till now it measures one acre or less.

Thus amid the circling hills of pine, where the golden light of day first breaks upon the dew-gemmed hills, where the tremulous light of evening lingers on the crest of the lonely mountain pine, without a boom, without a puff, without ever assuming an air of greatness, with more merit than praise, Asheboro has stood one hundred years the home of beauty and culture and intelligence. Her talent has honored the State. The virtues of her people have shed a living lustre upon the age, before their toil the forest has retreated, homes of art and industry have been extended, and her blossoming borders are crowned

With meadows and orchards and homes and farms,  
Where nature has lavished ineffable charms.

#### TRINITY

Is a neat and handsome little village in the northwest corner of the county, is well and tastefully arranged, and takes its name from the College.

Trinity College was founded in 1838 by Prof. Brantley York, and the old log house was the school room the first year. In 1839 a frame house was built, and the school was chartered as Union Institute. In 1842 Dr. Craven, then fresh from New Garden, took charge of the school. In 1851 the College was rechartered and named Normal College, and by act of the General Assembly of 1859 the name was changed to Trinity College. Thus, by the skill, ability and enterprise of Braxton Craven, the increasing growth, prosperity and patronage of this school rendered further and greater improvements necessary till it has become one of the foremost institutions of learning in the South.

Braxton Craven was born in Randolph county, near Buffalo Ford.

Brantley York was born and raised in Randolph, and when a young man split rails and broke flax at twenty cents a day.

#### ARCHDALE

Is a charming and attractive village on the head waters of Muddy Creek, a mile and a half northeast from Trinity, and has long been noted for its health and good society and the industry and intelligence of its people.

This place was established as a tannery in the year 1820, by Allen U. Tomlinson, and was called Bush Hill. By act of the Legislature of 1887 the name was changed to Archdale, in commemoration of John Archdale, the Quaker Governor of the Colony in 1694, under whose executive talents and ability the Colony signally flourished, and marked the period with eminent peace and prosperity.



The Archdale shoe and leather industry, under the management and enterprise of A. U. Tomlinson and Sons, from a single vat, has grown to a working capacity of ten thousand sides of leather and forty thousand pairs of shoes annually.

Hammond & Co. have an extensive sash and door factory; other industries are growing up, and the captivating beauty of the place, its pure air and good water, its schools, its churches, its groves, its flowers, make Archdale an attractive business centre.

The arts of peace are more illustrious far  
Than all the triumphs of inglorious war.

#### NEW MARKET.

This is an old settled place, and was the home of Capt. John Bryant, a Whig, who was shot in his own house by Colonel Fanning.

The place afterwards came into the possession of Shubal Gardner, who had a store there and was regarded as a big man.

He owned a number of lots in Johnsonville, and at one time drove a herd of beeves to Philadelphia.

Joseph Newlin bought the property about 1840, and called it New Market, and for many years carried on an extensive store and tin shop.

Dr. Lorenzo Wood lived here at that time, and was the most skillful physician of the age.

New Market is a self-constituted place, never having any local municipal government.

This is a time-honored spot and ought to be preserved from time's effacing hand.

## NEW SALEM.

The north part of the land on which this village stands was entered in 1792 by Joseph Hill, and afterwards conveyed by Hill to John Dennis, and by John Dennis to William Dennis.

In 1815 William Dennis conveyed to Jesse Hinshaw and Joseph Elliott, in trust for the Society of Friends, two acres of land for a meeting house.

About the same time Benjamin Marmon entered the middle and southern part of this locality, and a community of Randolph's best citizens gathered there and purchased lots. At that day, when roads were few, the converge or crossing of two public highways was regarded as the index to the future town.

In 1816 Benjamin Marmon, Jesse Hinshaw, Moses Swaim, Peter Dicks and William Dennis were appointed Commissioners of the town of New Salem, and sold a number of lots and located the streets. In the mean time Marmon had his lands in the town laid off into lots, and in 1823 sold his entire tract, including about twenty lots, to Peter Dicks and Joseph Hodgin.

New Salem has been the home of many good and noble men. J. M. Worth lived here, and here began his professional career as a practicing physician.

William Clark also lived here, and had a flourishing tannery and store, and who afterwards became one of the organizers of Randleman Factory.

Peter Dicks lived here and kept a store. Few productive industries were ever started here, and labor, which is the chief strength and support of a town, was drawn away by the music of Deep River, and new roads and

competing enterprises turned the channel of trade, and New Salem, once second only to Johnsonville in business and population, now, like a good old mother grown out of fashion, is kept in the kitchen by her grown up fashionable daughters.

#### GLADESBORO

Is an old place, near the Guilford county line, south of Freeman's Mill and west of Coltrane's Mill. It is located at the crossing of two public highways, and, like New Market, is a self-made town without any corporate power.

Dr. John Parker, a distinguished physician, lived here many years ago, and Jesse Needham had a shop at the place. George C. Mendenhall owned a lot here in 1837.

Robert Gray went there about 1842, and conducted a successful store for a number of years.

Gladesboro is a pleasant place, in a good neighborhood, and deserves success if it never achieves it.

On the eastern border of the county are to be found the young and growing villages of Julian, Liberty and Staley, situated on the C. F. & Y. V. Railroad.

This road was built about 1880, and its construction is largely due to the public spirit and enterprise of Julius A. Gray, Esq., of Greensboro, who was born in Randolph county, and whose father, General Alexander Gray, lived near Hopewell church, and for many years represented Randolph in the General Assembly.

Of this road there are thirty and one-tenth miles in this county. Of the H. P. R. A. & Southern Road there are twenty-six and sixty-five one-hundredths miles in Randolph, and of the North Carolina Road there are

seven-tenths of a mile in this county, making a total of fifty-seven and forty-five one-hundredths miles of railroad in Randolph county.

### GOVERNORS OF NORTH CAROLINA UNDER THE LORDS PROPRIETORS.

1663. William Drummond.	1698. Thomas Harvey.
1667. ——— Stevens.	1700. Henderson Walker.
1671. Sir George Carteret.	1704. Robert Daniel.
1678. ——— Eastchurch.	1711. Edward Hyde.
1680. John Jenkins.	1712. George Pollock.
1681. Henry Wilkinson.	1713. Charles Eden.
1683. Seth Sothel.	1722. Thomas Pollock.
1689. Phillip Ludwell.	1724. George Burrington.
1693. Thomas Smith.	1725. Richard Everhard.
1694. John Archdale.	

### ROYAL GOVERNORS APPOINTED BY KING GEORGE I.

1729. George Burrington.	1754. Arthur Dobbs.
1734. Gabriel Johnson.	1765. William Tryon.
1753. Matthew Rowan.	1771. Josiah Martin.

### GOVERNORS ELECTED BY THE LEGISLATURE.

1776. Richard Caswell.	1808. David Stone.
1779. Abner Nash.	1810. Benjamin Smith.
1781. Thomas Burke.	1811. William Hawkins.
1782. Alexander Martin.	1814. William Miller.
1784. Richard Caswell.	1817. John Branch.
1787. Samuel Johnson.	1820. Jesse Franklin.
1789. Alexander Martin.	1821. Gabriel Holmes.
1792. Richard D. Spaight.	1824. Hutchins G. Burton.

1795. Samuel Ashe.	1827. James Iredell.
1798. William R. Davie.	1828. John Owen.
1799. Benjamin Williams.	1830. Montford Stokes.
1802. James Turner.	1832. David L. Swain.
1805. Nathaniel Alexander.	1835. Richard D. Spaight.
1807. Benjamin Williams.	

### GOVERNORS ELECTED BY THE PEOPLE.

1837. Edward B. Dudley.	1866. Jonathan Worth. ✓
1841. John M. Morehead.	1868. W. W. Holden.
1845. William A. Graham.	1870. Tod R. Caldwell.
1849. Charles Manly.	1873. Curtis H. Brogdon.
1851. David S. Reed.	1874. Zeb. B. Vance.
1855. Thomas Bragg.	1880. Thomas J. Jarvis.
1858. John W. Ellis.	1884. Alfred M. Scales.
1861. Henry T. Clark.	1888. Daniel G. Fowle.
1862. Zeb. B. Vance.	1892. ....

John W. Ellis and Tod R. Caldwell died during term of office.

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## ASHEBORO DIRECTORY, 1890.

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*Clerk of Superior Court*—Geo. S. Bradshaw.

*Sheriff*—J. S. Swaim.

*Register of Deeds*—J. W. Bean.

*County Commissioners*—Dr. A. C. Bulla, Dr. S. A. Henly, R. A. Brower.

*Board of Education*—J. A. Blair, M. S. Robins, R. W. Frazer.

*Superintendent of Education*—W. C. Hammer.

*Public Guardian*—A. C. McAlister.

*Public Administrator*—J. S. Cox.

*Post Mistress*—Mrs. E. B. McCain.

*Attorneys at Law*—J. A. Blair, J. T. Crocker, Mike Bradshaw, J. T. Brittain, M. S. Robins, W. D. Rush.

*Standard Keeper*—J. F. Birkhead.

*Coroner*—C. H. Lewis.

*County Surveyor*—J. M. Johnson.

*Mayor of Asheboro*—J. T. Crocker.

*Town Commissioners*—J. A. Blair, W. H. Moring, Jr., W. A. Hamlin.

*Town Constable*—Isaac H. Burrow.

*Jailer*—James S. Free.

*White Academy*—Prof. Emmet L. Moffitt.

*Colored Academy*—Prof. W. Elmore Meade.

*Presbyterian Church*—Rev. George A. Hough, Pastor.

*Methodist Church*—Rev. Joseph C. Thomas, Pastor.

*Physician and Druggist*—J. M. Boyette.

*Surgeon Dentist*—A. E. Frazier.

*Physician*—S. A. Henly.

*Asheboro Courier*—G. W. Charlotte & Son, Editors.

*General Stores*—W. P. Wood & Co., McAlister & Morris, E. A. Moffitt & Son.

*Grocery and Tin*—W. D. Stedman.

*Grocers and Confectioners*—Brower, Hill & Co.

*Produce*—R. C. Charles.

*Racket and Produce*—Auman & Birkhead.

*Racket and Fancy Goods*—Mrs. W. D. Stedman.

*Buggy and Blacksmith*—B. B. Burns.

*Buggy and Smithshop*—H. J. Burns & Bro.

*Shuttle Block and Saw Mill*—Grimes & Grimes.

*Lumber and Planing Mill*—J. M. Worth & Co.

*Asheboro Hotel*—G. D. Hunsucker.

*Banner Hotel*—D. M. Petty.



## CONCLUSION.

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We have now followed the march of our county through the varying fortunes and vicissitudes of one hundred and ten years. We have traced briefly the footsteps of the past, and rehearsed the story of the beautiful, shadowy long ago.

We have shown you our people, our homes, our towns and industries, our mills, mines, meadows, mountains, streams, roads, forests, fields, hills, groves, gardens, birds and flowers.

There is no place on earth where the sky is bluer, where the fields are fairer, or the woods are greener. No place where the flowers are lovelier, where the birds sing sweeter, or the moon shines brighter.

This is the land of the rising sun; a land of beauty and verdure and blossom and song; a land of brooks, of water, of fountains and depths that spring out of valleys and hills; a land of wheat and barley and vine and fig and pomegranate; a land of corn and oil and honey; a land whose stones are iron and out of whose hills thou mayest dig brass; a land that the Lord careth for, where the sun shall not smite thee by day nor the moon by night. Our country came not by chance. At every step of our advancement may be seen the directing hand of an overruling providence shaping our destiny and developing our civilization.

It is said that travellers find their way across the desert by the bones of those who have perished in the journey.

The fallen win the victory, the survivors reap the spoil and gain the praise.

The men who cut our roads through the wilderness, who planted our homes and laid the foundation of our prosperity are gone, but their graves are here, their children are here. I have lingered where time has stamped the impress of age; I have stood upon the bleaching rocks that mark the mouldering ruins of the old home; I have tarried by the long neglected grave, in the desolate waste among the pathless hedge of thorns, where the feet of beauty once stood and wept over departed love.

Then in the noonday splendor of our county's glory, shall we deem it a vain and idle thing to offer a feeble tribute to our noble dead and our worthy living, or shall we forget our lineage and cease to honor the willows that overshadow the graves of our fathers.

The three vital elements of national strength and progress are muscle, capital and brain. Muscle does the work, capital pays for it and brain directs it. Some have muscle, some have money, and now and then is to be found a man of brain, and when all these resources are harmoniously united in interest we have prosperity, and when all unite in one man that man is a success. Antagonize these forces and conflicts, strikes and defections follow. Combined, each alike is valuable, alone each is powerless for good. Leagues and clans invite opposition. Combinations never protect the fortunes of the rich or relieve the necessities of the poor. Human nature in every age of the world is much the same. Men in office rarely complain of high salaries or excessive fees. The loudest declaimers against spoil and plunder usually evince the rarest capacity for shortage. The most arrant supporters of compacts, are the first, when retired, to denounce court house rings and party conclaves.

No community can afford to ignore any class of its subjects. That nation alone is great whose people are great, in contentment and happiness. High prices for produce, with corresponding high wages, with money bring prosperity. A system of low prices, with low wages, without money, is a mockery more splendid in theory than useful in practice. Theorizers are failures.

The strength of a nation is in its arts and industries. Rome conquered more by her arts than her arms. The lustre of a useful life, devoted to the peaceful pursuit of honest industry, outshines the grandest pageants of power. The proudest monuments of our nation's glory must be erected in the elevation and intelligence of the people. The vain adulations of praise bestowed upon the military chieftain only illustrate the folly of human ambition and the servility of the masses. Agriculture is the basis of National strength and greatness, the foundation upon which is reared the superstructure of free government, and the laborer is the key stone in the arch of the proud fabric of freedom. For him we cherish the profoundest veneration and respect, but for the political tramp, who is seeking office by deluding the farmer with empty promises and false representation, the world has the supremest contempt.

May the day hasten on apace when the idolatry of gunpowder greatness shall cease to be the folly of the world, and when man shall no longer pay his highest homage to the sword as the chief amulet of a nation's praise; but when the future glory of our country shall be that of peace and love, and our true heroes be those of toil and industry, whose skill and art shall celebrate in songs of praise, amid the music of busy commerce and happy homes, the grander, nobler victories of Peace.



Dear Mother  
I received your letter of the 15th and was  
glad to hear from you. I am well and  
hope these few lines will find you the same.

I have not much news to write at present.  
Everything is quiet here.

I must close for this time. Write soon.  
Love,  
John

P.S. I have not yet received your letter  
of the 20th.

I hope you are all well.  
I will write again soon.

Yours affectionately,  
John

I have not much news to write at present.  
Everything is quiet here.

I must close for this time. Write soon.  
Love,  
John

P.S. I have not yet received your letter  
of the 20th.

I hope you are all well.  
I will write again soon.







